In the Claims:

Please cancel claims 1, 2, 3, 6, 13-15, and 19-34 without prejudice or disclaimer and amend the claims as follows:

1.   (Canceled)

2.   (Canceled)

3.   (Canceled)

2

4.   (Currently Amended) The method of claim ~~1~~ 10 wherein type-checking the programming language comprises type-checking each of a plurality of intermediate representations of the programming language.

3

5.   (Original) The method of claim 4 wherein the selected one or more rule sets are different for each representation.

6.   (Canceled)

4

7.   (Original) The method of claim ~~1~~ 10 wherein the programming language includes a type that indicates an element of the programming language can be one of a plurality of types.

5

8.   (Original) The method of claim 7 wherein the one or more rule sets contains rules for type-checking a type that indicates an element of the programming language can be one of a plurality of types.

6

9.   (Original) The method of claim ~~1~~ 10 wherein the one or more rule sets comprise a plurality of rules in a hierarchical format.

10. (Currently Amended) A method of type-checking a programming language in a compiler according to one or more rule sets comprising:

selecting one or more of the rule sets based upon the present stage of compilation; and

type-checking the programming language based on the selected one or more rule sets;

~~The method of claim 1~~ wherein the one or more rule sets comprise one rule set corresponding to strong type-checking, one corresponding to weak type-checking, and one corresponding to representation type-checking.

11. (Original) The method of claim 10 wherein the representation type-checking will allow dropped type information for elements of the programming language.

12. (Original) The method of claim 10 wherein the weak type-checking will allow type casting.

13. (Canceled)

14. (Canceled)

15. (Canceled)

16. (Currently Amended) A compiler for compiling source code written in a source language comprising:

a plurality of type rules; and

a type-checker that selects a subset of type rules from the plurality of type rules based upon the source language to construct a rule set;

~~The compiler of claim 13~~ wherein three rule sets are constructed: one corresponding to strong type-checking, one corresponding to weak type-checking, and one corresponding to representation type-checking.

10
~~17~~. (Original) The compiler of claim ~~16~~ *9* wherein the representation type-checking will allow dropped type information for elements of the source code.

11
~~18~~. (Original) The compiler of claim ~~16~~ *9* wherein the weak type-checking will allow type casting.

19-34. (Canceled)